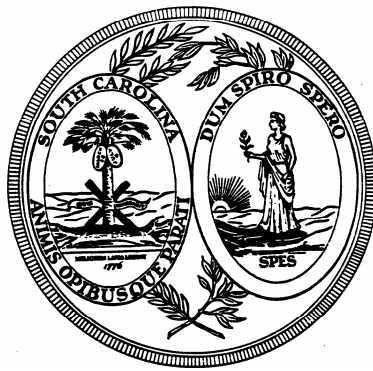


THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATE PLAN

2007 - 2008



**South Carolina DSS
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INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement:

The mission of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) is to ensure the health and safety of children and adults who cannot protect themselves, and to assist families to achieve stability through food assistance, child care, child support, and temporary benefits while transitioning into employment.

The South Carolina Department of Social Services through its Battered Spouse Program provides assistance for victims of domestic violence. The program is designed to provide support for crisis intervention and prevention services to victims of family violence, their children and abusers through a network of community based nonprofit service providers. Our guiding principle is that community resources will work together to promote quality services and to promote healthy lives for families experiencing domestic violence. The Department began funding domestic violence services in 1980 with one emergency shelter and a crisis intervention network. Mini grants were awarded to community based domestic violence task forces to host community forums on spouse abuse; install emergency crisis lines for victims; and to develop brochures and training materials on the subject. Gradually increased levels of funding has allowed the program expansion to include twenty providers throughout the state.

The types of providers vary from emergency shelters offering a variety of victim services to programs that offers specialized counseling for batterers of Domestic Violence. There are providers in rural as well as metropolitan areas. All providers are united in their dedication to ensuring the safety of victims and the prevention of further incidents of Domestic Violence.

History

According to S. C. Code of Laws Ann §16-25-20, “domestic violence” is defined as

- Causing physical harm or injury to a person’s household member;
- Offering or attempting to cause physical harm or injury to a person’s own household member with apparent present ability under circumstances reasonably creating fear of imminent peril.”

Since the legislature first appropriated funds for the development of a program of services for the prevention of spouse abuse, the State of South Carolina has been actively involved in domestic violence prevention.

Initially, DSS provided funding for additional domestic violence intervention agencies as the state appropriation increased. By 1988, eight emergency shelters, one crisis intervention center, and two offender intervention services were funded by a combined state and federal appropriation of over \$800,000.00. However, most

services were concentrated in the larger towns and cities, often leaving rural residents without access to services.

As public awareness and demand for family violence intervention services increased, the Department of Social Services realized that the practice of funding emergency shelters and/or crisis intervention agencies as they became operational was inadequate to meet the needs of the state victim population. The rate of denial of emergency shelter services due to lack of space consistently amounted to fifty percent of those actually receiving shelter.

To remedy the situation, DSS implemented a Service Expansion Plan in 1988 to maximize the service capabilities of provider agencies and to ensure the availability of accessible emergency shelters and related assistance to victims. A system of regional emergency shelter services was instituted. All emergency shelter services are required to provide:

- a twenty-four hour crisis line
- client needs assessment
- information and referral
- temporary emergency shelter
- individual and group counseling
- legal advocacy
- assistance with obtaining housing and employment
- locally based services in each county of the assigned service region, and
- promote community awareness of domestic violence issues

In the recent years, increased funding and public awareness of the issues have aided in the expansion and diversification of services throughout the state. Additionally, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of 2003 expanded the responsibilities of DSS to include the following:

- Approval of the batterers treatment program of government agencies, nonprofit organizations and private agencies serving the batterers
- Reviewing and approval of the Department of Education and the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)'s guidelines and materials for continuing education concerning domestic violence
- Ensuring the availability of domestic violence training for the staff of child day care center owners and operators

The Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) was established to reduce incidents of domestic violence by providing services to batterers while promoting safety and justice for victims. Program treatment services are based on quality standards, which

are utilized for intervention with clients who have been identified as perpetrators of domestic violence.

During the 2006 Domestic Violence Conference, a meeting was held with BIP representatives in attendance. One of the concerns addressed was the need for a batterer's treatment program in each county. This would not only provide a much needed service but would prove to be convenient for perpetrators. The stated reason for this situation was that the referral numbers were low in some areas and the operation of a BIP was not cost effective. However, it is believed that the referrals will increase due to the legislative mandate (section 16-25-100) requiring all magistrates and municipal court judges to attend domestic violence training.

The goals of the domestic violence intervention programs and Family Violence Prevention and Services Programs are to prevent and/or reduce the incidence of family violence and ensure accessible emergency shelter and related assistance to those in need of services for the prevention of spouse abuse and family violence. DSS is responsible for strategic planning, policy development, and administration of the State's Family Violence Intervention Program. DSS uses the state appropriation and funds from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to contract with non-profit community based agencies to:

- Improve access to services by funding a regionally based network of emergency shelters; each shelter being required to provide locally based services for residents of its assigned service area, including but not limited to locally based individual crisis counseling, legal and/or client advocacy, and to locally based support group counseling for each county in the entity's service area
- Coordinate intervention by requiring that contractors establish cooperative agreements with law enforcement and other disciplines providing intervention services for victims and families and
- Increase public awareness about domestic violence and its impact on the community by requiring contractors to promote community education by sponsoring workshops, public speaking with local civic and private organizations, and contacts with local media.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	FISCAL YEAR 2007 - 2008
Number emergency shelters funded	13
Number offender intervention centers funded	08
Number individuals receiving emergency shelter	15,915
Number women/children receiving myriad of services	24,807
Number of hotline calls	14, 819
Number of offenders receiving services	3,004

*Source: South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence And Sexual Assault and the Domestic Violence emergency shelters.

Presently, DSS funds thirteen (13) emergency shelters, seven (13) counseling services for abusers which includes one (1) crisis intervention program for victims of incest. South Carolina ranks number two in the nation for number of women killed by abusive partners (The Violence Policy Center, Washington, D.C., 12 - 11- 2008).

ELIGIBILITY AND SERVICE INFORMATION

Recipients of domestic violence services must be victims of domestic violence, their children or batterers. Those in need are eligible to receive services without regard to income, national origin, or gender. However, emergency shelters may develop house rules that prohibit residence by individuals who exhibit inappropriate or dangerous behavior.

An integral component of providing domestic violence services is the Batterer Intervention Programs (BIP). The Domestic Violence Act of 2003 provides that domestic violence offenders who participate in a batterer(s) treatment program must participate in program offered through a government agency, non-profit organization or private provider that has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

The BIPS are design to assist batterers in ceasing their abusive and controlling behaviors. Since the implementation of these standards in January 2005, the key goal is the establishment and approval of these programs in each county.

The guiding principles for the BIP's state-wide services are the "Standards of Care for Batterers Treatment." These standards are highly recognized and address primary treatment approaches and practices. In discharging its responsibilities regarding approval of batterer intervention service providers, DSS seeks to secure professional and qualified service providers who are willing and capable of operating their batterers treatment program in accordance with an approved "Standards of Care for Batterers Treatment" developed by the Palmetto Association of Family Violence Intervention Programs and adopted by our agency. Additionally, the minimum standards are found in Section 43-1-205 of the South Carolina law.

To continue, we also provide child care for eligible victims of domestic violence who need this service in order to work and gain financial independence.

Domestic Violence Training

The goal of the domestic violence training is to develop an understanding of domestic violence and its impact on the family. This training will assist case managers in identifying and assessing need of the families. Planning intervention strategies, safety assessment and service planning activities are included in this learning experience. Our agency's training on domestic violence consists of the following components:

- **Family Violence: The War Behind Closed Doors.....**This foundation course on family violence offers a comprehensive overview of the dynamics of violence between intimate partners and its implications for the safety and well-being of children as well as self-sufficiency. Special emphasis is place on how to work effectively with adult victims of domestic violence to protect themselves and their children; case study is used to practice assessment and case planning.
- **Family Violence: Case Management Advance Skills – Building.....**This interactive training is designed to build Case Managers' skills in working with adult and child victims of domestic violence to overcome barriers, plan for safety, and link with community resources. Participants will hear from a panel of representatives from agencies and organizations in the community that serve victims of domestic violence.
- **Family Violence: Understanding The Effects Of Domestic Violence - Training for Child Day Care Staff.....**This training is designed to prepare child care staff to recognize and respond appropriately to children and their families who may be experiencing domestic

violence. Brief lectures, discussions, learning activities, and video presentation are used to encourage interactive learning among participants.

Funding

The Domestic Violence Fund (Fund) was established by Section 20-4-1620 of the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act. According to the statute “[t]he fund must be administered by the Department of Social Services and revenues of the fund must be used solely to award grants to the domestic violence centers and programs in the State.” The fund receives its revenue from donations, contributions, bequests, and other gifts to the fund. Additionally, pursuant to Section 20-1-375, funding is received from a portion of the marriage license fees.

Federal funding for family violence intervention programs is reallocated annually. The amount each state receives is based on a ratio of the state’s population to the total appropriation. The disbursement of Family Violence monies is governed by regulations delineated by the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Service Delivery

DSS also contracts with nonprofit community based agencies to:

- provide or arrange emergency shelter care and/or appropriate services for victims of family violence, their children, and other relevant family members
- Promote public awareness and education about family violence in their local communities
- Coordinate services with other crisis intervention, shelter, and/or offender programs when, or if necessary
- Collaborate to the extent possible with local law enforcement, solicitor, and judiciary in the prosecution of offender

Fees for emergency shelter services may be charged by contractors with prior approval from DSS. However, services may not be denied to any client due to non-payment. All providers are expected to abide by the terms and specifications outlined in their contracts with DSS. The programmatic activities of funded agencies are regularly monitored for contract compliance. Statistical reports of client services are submitted to DSS on a monthly basis.

Service Locations

DSS currently funds a regional network of thirteen emergency shelter programs. Several programs have established satellite locations that offer advocacy and counseling services within their service areas.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS



Thirteen Emergency Shelters:

REGION	EMERGENCY SHELTERS	COUNTIES SERVED
Region I	Citizens against Sexual Assault/Family Systems	Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg
Region II	Citizens Against Spouse Abuse	Georgetown and Horry
Region III	Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper
Region IV	Cumbee Center	Aiken, Allendale and Barnwell
Region V	Laurens County Safe Home	Laurens, Abbeville and Saluda
Region VI	MEG's House	Edgefield, Greenwood, and McCormick
Region VII	My Sister's House	Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester
Region VIII	Pee Dee Coalition Against Spouse Abuse	Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, and Williamsburg
Region IX	Safe Harbor	Greenville, Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens
Region X	Spartanburg Safe Home-Rape Crisis	Cherokee, Spartanburg, and Union
Region XI	Safe Passage, Inc.	Chester, Lancaster, and York
Region XII	Sistercare	Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield and Kershaw
Region XIII	YWCA of the Upper Lowlands	Clarendon, Lee, and Sumter

Batterers Intervention Program (BIP)

The Domestic Violence Law of 2003 mandates our agency to approve BIP for providers serving the batterers. Their psycho-educational services for batterers and support services for victims being providing, are recognized as one of the effective treatment approaches and practices. They are designed to help stop the abusive and controlling behavior. Therefore, our responsibility includes the approval of both the non-funded and funded BIP by our agency throughout the state. Listed below are our funded providers.

BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM (BIP)

AGENCY	COUNTIES SERVED
Citizens Against Sexual Assault (Region 1)	Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg
Domestic Abuse Center (Regions 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12)	See asterisk below*
Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse (Region 3)	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper
Family Service Center (Region 7)	Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester
Pee Dee Coalition (Region 8)	Florence, Darlington, Marion, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon and Williamsburg
Compass of Carolina (Region 9)	Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson
Carolina Counseling, Inc. (Region 10)	Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union
YWCA of the Upper Lowlands (Region 13)	Clarendon, Lee and Sumter

*Counties served: Horry, Georgetown, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, McCormick, Edgefield, Greenwood, York, Chester, Lancaster, Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield, Kershaw, Laurens, Abbeville, and Saluda.

FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 - 2008

AGENCY	COUNTIES SERVED	TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Carolina Counseling	Spartanburg	864-583-5802
CASA/Family Stems (Citizens Against Sexual Assault)	Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg	803-534-2272
Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper	843-770-1070
Citizens Against Spouse Abuse	Georgetown and Horry	843-626-7595
Compass of Carolina	Reenville	864-467-3434
Cumbee Center	Allendale, Aiken, and Barnwell	803-649-0480
Domestic Abuse Center	Richland, Lexington, and York	803-256-468
Family Services of Charleston	Charleston	843-744-1348
Family Counseling Center of Columbia	Anderson	864-225-6266
Laurens County Safe Home	Abbeville, Laurens, and Saluda	864-682-7270
MEG's House	Edgefield, Greenwood, and McCormick	864-227-1421
My Sister's House	Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester	843-747-4069
Pee Dee coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault	Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion, and Williamsburg	843-669-4694
Safe Home-Rape Crisis Coalition	Cherokee, Spartanburg, and Union	864-583-9803
Safe Harbor, Inc.	Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens	864-467-1177
Sexual Trauma Center	Greenwood and Laurens	864-227-1623
Sistercare, Inc.	Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, and Richland	803-329-3336
Safe Passage, Inc.	Chester, Lancaster, and York	803-329-3336
YWCA of the Upper Lowlands	Clarendon, Lee, and Sumter	803-773-7158

Planning and Collaborative Process:

The South Carolina Department of Social Services works closely with South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence And Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA). This organization is a professional agency representing 13 domestic violence providers and 16 sexual assault organizations. These member organizations provide crisis intervention, safe shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, financial aid and a myriad of other services intended to support victims of domestic violence. In collaboration and in contract with our agency, SCCADVASA provides the following:

- Encouragement for members to assess children within the shelter to determine their involvement as witnesses or victims of domestic violence. When appropriate, immediately make referral to child protective services.

- Coordinate cross training of community partners, including law enforcement, adult and child domestic violence, how it effects victims and their children and the inter-relatedness to child abuse
- Conduct an annual one-day training conference regarding the interrelatedness of domestic violence and child abuse for professionals on state-wide basis
- Provide transitional emergency funds to domestic violence services providers in targeted rural counties. Services may include but is not limited to short term transportation alternative, housing for families with male over the age of 13, rent, utility deposits, and limited child care.
- Employ staff who will specialize in working with child witnesses and/or victims and in developing specific programs for this population
- Partner in the evaluation of the project's effectiveness, progress, functioning and
- Submit quarterly reports summarizing activities undertaken

We are learning during our partnering with other helping agents that our roles and responsibilities are evolving. The community is more aware of the South Carolina Department of Social Services' domestic violence program and is requesting more of our services and expertise. To summarize, we implement and coordinate a variety of activities required to facilitate services to ensure safety for victims and their families with a special focus on children who witness domestic violence.

Our domestic violence programs work successfully with the community helping agents state-wide. The teamwork approach is used in coordinating, planning, and implementation of services. In addition, we facilitate problem resolution and develop plans to address the identified issues. For example, problematic funding issues impact the delivery of services. A corrective action plan maybe needed as a resolution. This plan is developed based on available resources, options, and alternatives which meet the uniqueness of the situation. Listed below are some of our everyday activities:

- Approving and monitoring of the batterers treatment programs statewide
- Coordinating the training of the domestic violence curriculum for day care providers and make available training for their staff
- Monitoring the domestic violence shelters statewide
- Monitoring the Domestic Violence Liaison Project for the enhancement of county operations
- Reviewing and approving the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault guidelines and materials for continuing education concerning Domestic Violence
- Providing support for crisis intervention and prevention services to victims of family violence, their children and abusers through a network of community based service agencies

- Training and consulting with staff on Domestic Violence and develop safe and effective ways of serving families
- Developing and maintaining collaborative links with other agencies and organizations in order to educate all community members about Domestic Violence

The approval and the monitoring of the Batterers Intervention Programs, and training coordinator for day care providers along with the monitoring of the emergency shelters require the work of three full time staff. These staff members must have the required knowledge and skills in this area for the program to be successful. Other responsibilities involve planning, organizing, reviewing, evaluating, and providing technical assistance/consultation as needed. Upon request from the community, set up exhibit, provide materials, and conduct program activities. We also serve on community committee and advisory boards.

Furthermore, SCDSS along with Materials Management Office process our Request for Proposals (RFP) with community provides (offerors) every five years for thirteen regions within the state; an award is granted for each region. All interested community providers submit their competitive offers to provide services to victims of family violence, their families, and abusers. These offerors agree to be bound by the terms of the Solicitation. Awards resulting from the competitive offerors are awarded to the responsive and responsible offerors whose proposal is determined to meet the requirements of the State and is most advantageous to the State. Notably, in 2006, we provided five-year contracts based on this process and the awards granted.

Strategic Goals and Strategies:

Our Program faces the following challenges in the prevention and or the reduction of domestic violence in our community:

- According to the U.S. Surgeon General, domestic violence is the leading cause of injuries to women age fifteen to forty-four
- Lack of the community awareness of the harms and underlying causes of domestic violence and the awareness of the services available to victims and perpetrators
- The lack of community awareness of the complexity of the issues surrounding domestic violence among batterers returning home from prison and their partners.
- According to the statistic of the Office of Violence Against Women, 20% of teenage girls and young women have experienced some form of dating violence

The domestic violence strategic plan guides the overall management of the program throughout the year. Since 1980, our community has focused primarily on crisis intervention after the damage has taken place. However, focusing on crisis alone does not address the severe violation of the rights of a person.

The overall strategic goal is the prevention and/or the reduction of domestic violence occurrences. Below are the strategies to address and/or the reduction of domestic violence:

Challenge 1: Our state ranks second in the nation for number of women killed by abusive partners (SCCADVASA).

Women are more likely than men to be killed by an intimate partner. The incidence of these fatalities is especially high among the pregnant and recently pregnant women. Battering is the single largest cause of injury to women. The Domestic Violence Programs have few resources which addresses the overall male attitudes about violence.

Strategy to address this issue:

Continue partnerships with the community stakeholders to provide training and education to facilitate the needed changes in these attitudes and behaviors.

Challenge 2: The cycle of domestic violence is most likely to resume when the incarcerated batterer returns to his home and community.

Factors contributing to this challenge include the inmates' reentry into the family:

- without any domestic violence intervention for victim nor inmate
- changes in the roles of the family members since incarceration,
- the possibility of the inmates high expectations that the family unit has not changed and what their family can provide,
- difficulty of obtaining employment

Strategy to address this issue:

Develop and maintain a collaborative relationship with the correctional institutions to provide joint training and education workshops on how to provide intervention which supports safety and support for victim and family and mandated batterer intervention counseling for the inmate prior to release.

Challenge 3: Domestic violence is a severe social problem. It has a range of negative effects on young children, teenagers and young women; injury and even death by the abuser. Domestic violence also constitutes a threat to unborn children. Some studies document a correlation between spouse abuse and child abuse and the abuser of the spouse commonly the child's abuser. This violence may also trigger fear and anxiety for the neighboring community. Studies also indicate that children growing-up in environments in which domestic violence is present are most likely to become involved in violence as a youth.

Strategy to address this issue:

Maintain working relationships with the community; continue to provide education on prevention strategies through the media, law enforcement, support group with follow-up, promote inter-agencies liaison between hospital and law enforcement; promote the development of domestic violence units within law enforcement agencies; and publish posters with public education information to include a safe place plan. This strategy is a follow-up to the Partners for Safety Grant to DSS and other community providers from April 2001 – July 2006 from the Office On Violence Against Women. This grant also focuses on detrimental effects on domestic violence on children witnessing and providing resources for families involved in domestic violence.

Challenge 4: The need for Batterer Intervention Programs in each county.

Strategy to address this issue:

Continue with our collaboration with The Office of the Attorney General by providing joint training for judges, law enforcement, victim advocates and attorneys. These full day trainings are conducted state-wide. The aim is to educate these professionals who work with domestic violence cases on the latest issues, techniques, and procedures for referrals to service providers and laws regarding criminal domestic violence.

Program Outcomes and Measures:

- Domestic Violence Outcome.....Reduction or prevention of the incidences of Domestic Violence before it occurs.
- Domestic Violence Measures:The review of Domestic Violence Monitoring Tools and Domestic Violence Reporting forms and documentation of the data.
- Domestic Violence Outcome.....Increasing the community awareness of the harm and underlying causes of Domestic Violence, enhance the awareness of the dynamics and indicator of a healthy family, and public awareness of the services available to victims and perpetrators.
- Domestic Violence Measures.....The review of the annual reported statistics, Domestic Violence Monitoring Tool, Reporting Form and documentation of this data.

